



## **Office of the Mayor**

### **NEWS RELEASE**

#### **South Bend rises in ‘Best Places for Business’ list**

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The South Bend metropolitan area leapfrogged over Chicago, Evansville, Ind., and other Midwestern cities to rise 26 places in *Forbes* magazine’s annual list of the “Best Places for Business and Careers.”

South Bend placed 114<sup>th</sup> overall after New York and before Peoria, Ill., in the ranking of 200 metropolitan areas released this month by *Forbes* magazine. In 2006, South Bend ranked 140<sup>th</sup> overall. South Bend was one of five Indiana cities listed on the major metropolitan cities list, while seven Indiana cities made the “Best Places” list for smaller metropolitan areas.

The rise in South Bend’s rank came as the metropolitan area’s statistics improved for both the cost of doing business and for job growth while stayed statistically level in terms of the share of the population with at least a bachelor’s degree. (The cost of doing business was indexed based on the cost of labor, energy, taxes and office space, while job growth is based on five years of annualized figures.)

“Rankings are subject to more debate than College Football’s national champion, but they do manage to capture at least a piece of reality. And the reality is that South Bend is on the move when it comes to creating a strong business environment and finding career opportunities,” said Mayor Stephen J. Luecke. “From affordable high-speed Internet connections for businesses through the MetroNet and great infrastructure for distribution to unrivaled educational opportunities and an affordable base for small-business entrepreneurs, South Bend is poised for new economic development.”

South Bend’s upward mobility came at a time when the state’s largest city, Indianapolis, fell from 10<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> place. Following Indianapolis were Fort Wayne (94<sup>th</sup>), South Bend (114<sup>th</sup>), Evansville (116<sup>th</sup>) and Gary (144<sup>th</sup>).

Among the quadrant of metropolitan areas of similar population size (233,000 to 370,000), South Bend ranked 11<sup>th</sup> in terms of the lowest cost of doing business and 21<sup>st</sup>

overall.

The Forbes report is available online at: [http://www.forbes.com/2007/04/05/best-cities-business-biz-07bestplaces-cz\\_kb\\_0405bestplacesintro.html](http://www.forbes.com/2007/04/05/best-cities-business-biz-07bestplaces-cz_kb_0405bestplacesintro.html)